

CHAPTER 20

TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT

State/Cnty TREE MARKING CODE

Management of Department-owned lands is becoming more intensive. It is important that the public is aware of this and desirable that they have an understanding of the management practices being applied.

Tree marking paint has aroused the curiosity of the sportsman, vacationer and sightseer. It is, therefore, desirable that a uniform tree marking paint code be established and adhered to. This will also serve to obtain better compliance to timber sale contracts if designated colors have specific meanings.

The Wisconsin Society of American Foresters has recommended a standard code for marking paint colors.

All personnel using tree marking paint should use the following paint code:

Property boundaries	- Blue
Timber sale area boundaries	- Red
Trees to be cut	- Orange or yellow
Trees to be left	- Light Green
Research and inventory	- White
Trails	- Aluminum

Designated Hiking Trails

The Ice Age Trail (IAT) and North County Trail (NCT) are designated by yellow (IAT) and medium blue (NCT) paint. Attempt to minimize use of similar colored paint adjacent to these trails to avoid confusion to recreational users.

In some cases it may be desirable to use biodegradable plastic ribbon rather than paint for occasions where the marking is of a very temporary nature.

Any paint lines or "ribbon lines" in existence should be indicated on the timber sale map.

Only lead-free paint is to be purchased and used on Department timber sales.

Suggested Marking Guidelines

- Mark on two sides of the tree.
- Stump mark.
- Make sure red line is visible to the interior of the sale as well as between individually painted trees.
- Use distinctly different marks on a tree to indicate the end of a paint line.
- Have red lines and marked trees face away from trails, roads, and recreation areas.
- If the red line is along a high use recreation area or in an aesthetically sensitive area, require the sale boundary line to be cut.
- Use natural boundaries instead of paint lines whenever possible (i.e. Keg and hardwood boundary).

Best Management Practices for Water Quality

All management activities, including but not limited to timber harvesting, must refer to [Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices](#) (BMP) field manual (PUB-FR-093-97REV) for specific guidelines along waterways. BMPs are mandatory on all state owned lands as well as those county forests that are certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). BMPs are also mandatory in those uncertified counties when referenced in their County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Land and Road Construction

Construction in excess of one acre in size, or near navigable waters or wetlands, may require a permit. Refer to the Public Forest Lands Handbook (pgs. 270-40 and 270-41) for information on state and local water regulations and storm water permitting requirements.